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7
HOLIDAY
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THE TERROR OF TRAMPLUR!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
85
0 70989 31545 7

JUMP BACK

'Cause new, improved Trix® is so sweet and fruity and brightly colored, now you gotta wear shades when you eat it!!

Directions: Prop this page against a chair or a wall, jump back 10 steps, and check out the picture that appears.

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IN A DARK CORNER OF EMPIRE CITY:
IT MAY NOT BE AS SPIFFY AS THE OLD ONE, BUT AS YOU WELL KNOW, I'M A GENIUS AT IMPROVISING...
... AND I THINK YOU'LL LIKE OUR NEW LAB, BUZZBOMB-- AFTER I RECONNECT YOUR EYE-SENSORS SO YOU CAN SEE IT, ANYWAY.
IT WASN'T EASY SNEAKING INTO THAT ABANDONED COP WAREHOUSE TO STEAL BACK ALL YOUR BLOWN-UP PIECES.*
AND SOME VIBE-PIPER YOU MADE-- LEADING ALL THOSE RATS STRAIGHT INTO THAT TRAP..
* SEE #3. --PANDY ANDY.
BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T EXCUSE THOSE LOUSY COPS FOR BLOWING YOU UP...
HNNPH!
AND DONE!
WA-LA-LA-LA!
NOW TO SWITCH YOU ON AND SEE IF I DID IT RIGHT, BUZZBOMB...
... SEE IF I'VE SUCCESSFULLY BROUGHT YOU BACK TO LI--
G-4289

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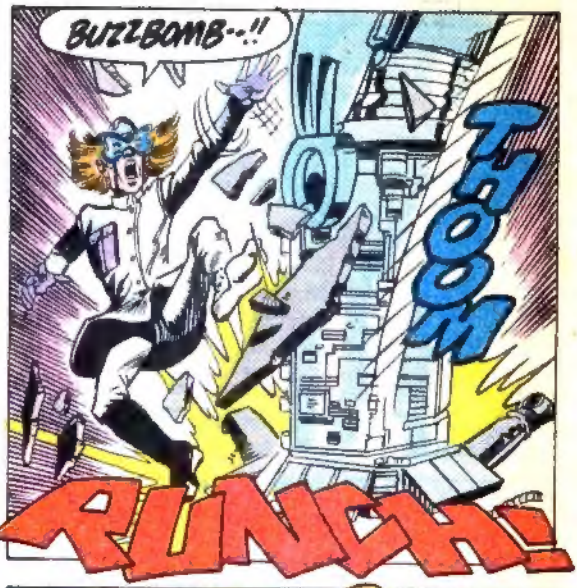
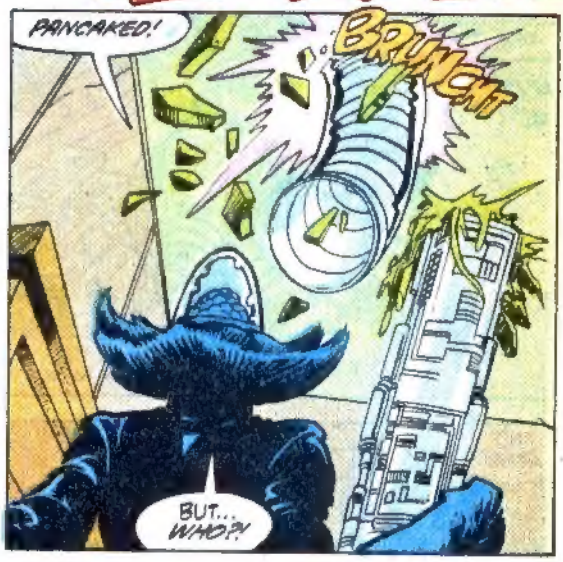
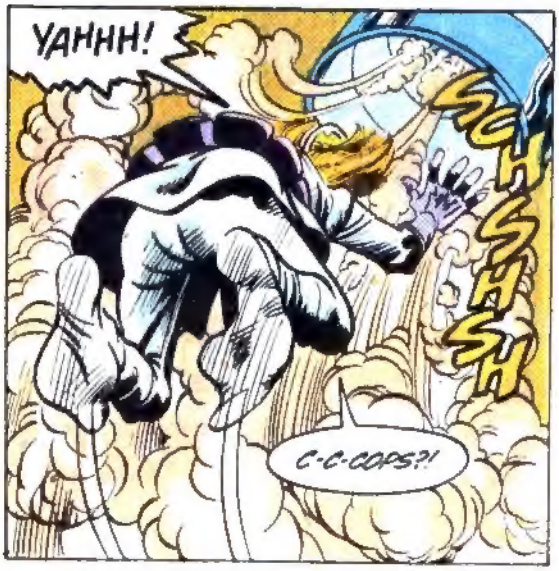
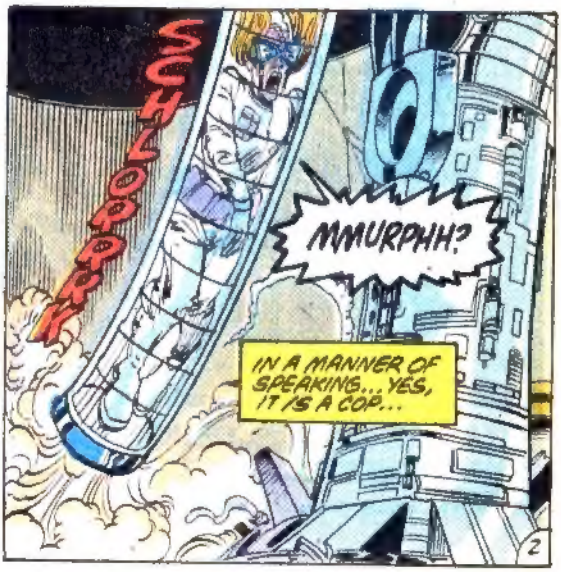
THAKRUNCHH
--YIIIEEE?!


BUZZBOMB--!!
THOOM
RUNCH!

ALL MY HARD WORK..
...NOT TO MENTION MY RECONSTITUTED FAITHFUL ROBOT COMPANION...
...SQUASHED FLAT!


PANCAKED!
BRUNCH!
BUT... WHO?!


YAHHH!
SCHSHSH
C-C-COPS?!


SCHLOOORK
MMURPHH?
IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING... YES, IT IS A COP...

BUT THIS IS NO ORDINARY COP.
THIS COP IS FROM OUT OF TOWN.
INDEED, THIS COP IS A--
ROGUE COP!
RUNCHT
GOT HIM!
HELP!! WAKE ME UP!! I'M HAVING A NIGHTMARE!!
DOUG MOENCH • PAT BRODERICK & PABLO MARCOS
writer artists
JOHN COSTANZA • GENE D'ANGELO • KEVIN DOOLEY
letterer colorist asst. editor
ANDREW HELFER
editor
3

AND THIS ROGUE COP HAS COME TO EMPIRE CITY WITH BUT ONE PURPOSE IN MIND...
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
HA HA HA HA HA
SPA-KASHH
...TO GO ON A BERSERK RAMPAGE.
HA HA HA HA
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
MEANWHILE, AT THE 647TH PRECINCT:
-- SO BIG BOSS AND HIS GANG WILL CONTINUE GOING ABOUT THEIR CRIMINAL BUSINESS AS USUAL...
... AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO TO STOP HIM -- NOT UNLESS WE CATCH HIM IN THE ACT.
WE MIGHT CATCH BERSERKO RED-HANDED, O'MALLEY, BUT DON'T COUNT ON BIG BOSS HIMSELF BEING THAT STUPID.
4

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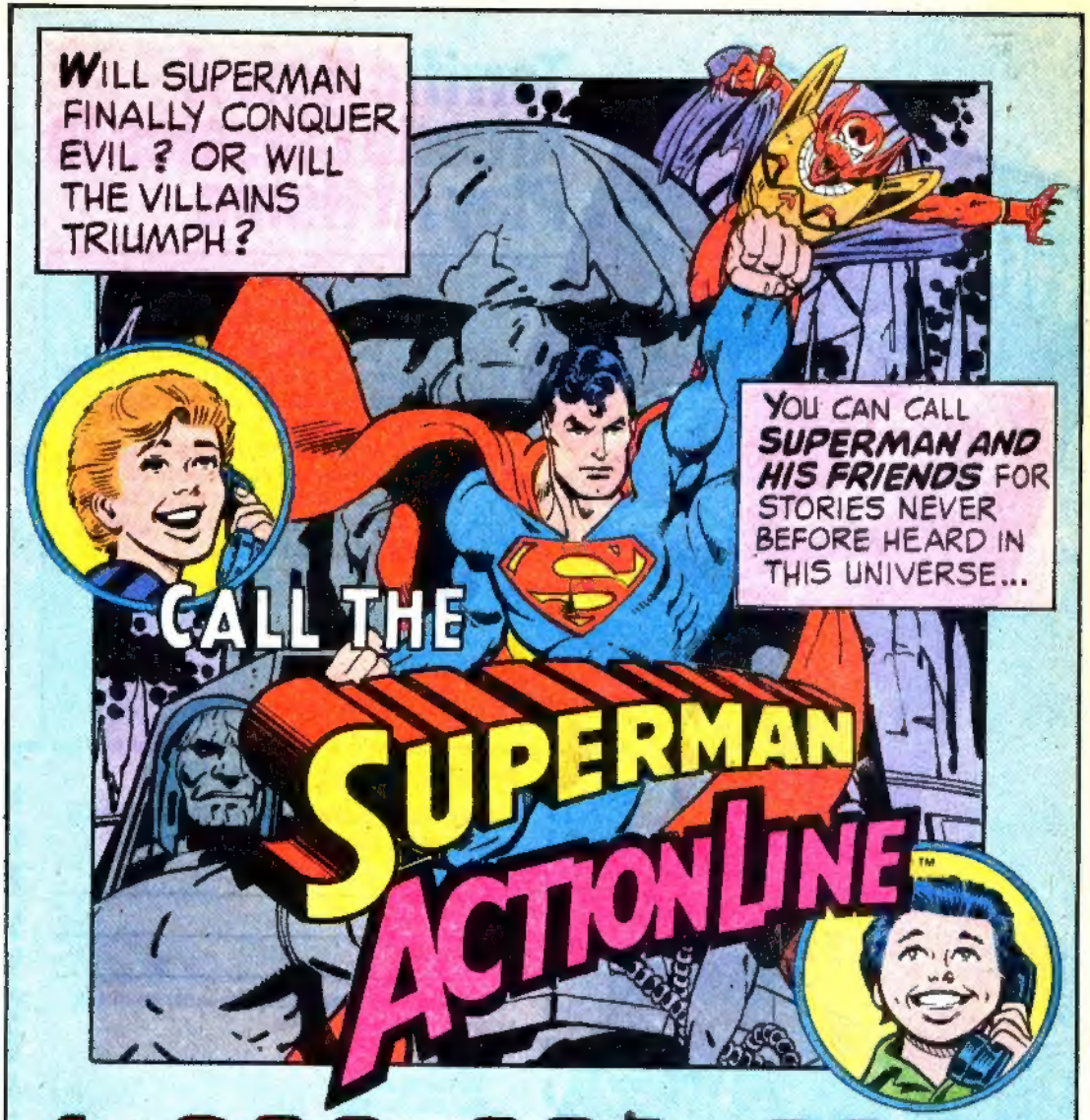
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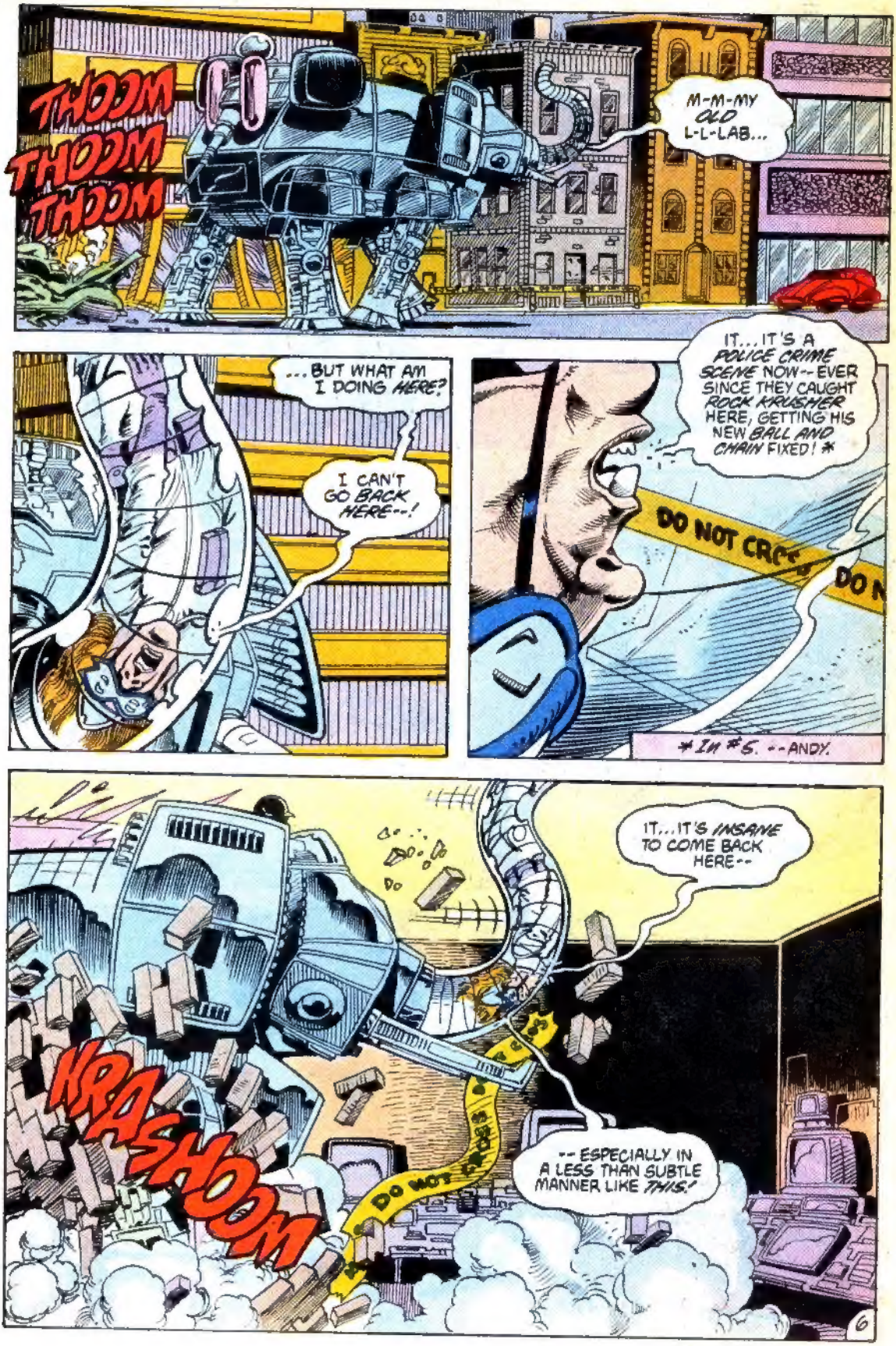
NO, BIG BOSS IS TOO CUNNING TO LET US NAB HIM THE EASY WAY.
HE NEVER COMMITS A CRIMINAL ACT PERSONALLY UNLESS HE KNOWS WE'RE NOT WATCHING.
YET WE KNOW HE DOES COMMIT THOSE ACTS! WE KNOW HE'S AS DIRTY AS A SLUSHY GLITTER!
IT GETS SO FRUSTRATING-- AND SOMETIMES I WISH WE COULD JUST FORGET ABOUT DUE PROCESS AND ALL THE RULES AND REGULATIONS--
-- JUST POUNCE ON HIM, SLING HIM INTO LOCKUP, AND THROW AWAY THE KEY!
YOU MEAN THOSE SENTIMENTS, O'MALLEY?
NO... NOT REALLY, VESS.
DUE PROCESS... OBEYING THE RULES... WITHOUT THAT, WE'D BE NO DIFFERENT FROM BIG BOSS AND HIS ILK.
YOU'RE A GOOD COP, O'MALLEY, PROBABLY THE BEST IN THIS ELITE UNIT...
... DEDICATED ENOUGH TO FEEL THE FRUSTRATION, BUT DISCIPLINED ENOUGH NOT TO SUCCUMB TO IT.
IT'S A FINE BALANCE WE HAVE TO MAINTAIN, AND YOU'VE MASTERED IT LIKE A HIGH-WIRE ARTIST.
UH... WELL... THANK YOU, SIR.
NEVER CHANGE, LONGARM... NEVER LOSE YOUR EQUILIBRIUM.
IT CAN ONLY RESULT IN A FALL... AND WHEN A COP FALLS--
-- HE MAKES AN AWFUL BIG NOISE.


THOOM THOOM THOOM
M-M-MY OLD L-L-LAB...
...BUT WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
I CAN'T GO BACK HERE--!
IT...IT'S A POLICE CRIME SCENE NOW--EVER SINCE THEY CAUGHT ROCK KRUSHER HERE, GETTING HIS NEW BALL AND CHAIN FIXED! *
DO NOT CRO
DO N
* IN #5. --ANDY.
IT...IT'S INSANE TO COME BACK HERE--
KRASHOOM
DO NOT
-- ESPECIALLY IN A LESS THAN SUBTLE MANNER LIKE THIS!
6

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, CREEP!
THIS IS AN OLD CRIME SCENE, AND THERE ARE ALWAYS NEWER ONES--
--AND SINCE THE COPS CAN'T AFFORD TO COVER 'EM ALL, THEY WON'T BE BACK HERE.
PHOOB
UHH! H-HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
WUMP
BECAUSE I KNOW COP BUDGETS-- AND I KNOW HOW COPS THINK.
OH? WH-WHY IS THAT?
BECAUSE I AM A COP--A COP TURNED BAD-- AND YOU CAN CALL ME... ROGUE.
T-TURNED BAD? IS THAT WHY THIS IS MY L-LAB...AND N-NOT J-JAIL?
THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE BRILLIANT, DR. BADVIBES.
I BROUGHT YOU HERE SO YOU COULD PROVE IT-- BY HELPING ME.
M-ME... H-HELP Y-YOU ...H-HOW?
YOU'RE A GENIUS INVENTOR AREN'T YOU? I WANT YOU TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS ON MY TRAMPLUR-- IMPROVEMENTS-- SO IT'LL BE THE MEANEST MACHINE ON THE STREET!
YOUR UH...TRAMPLUR IS NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT RIGHT NOW..
7

BUT SURE, I CAN IMPROVE IT-- I LOVE A CHALLENGE-- BUT I'LL NEED MONEY.
I'M NOT HIRING YOU, FREAK-- I'M FORCING YOU!
I DON'T MEAN MONEY FOR A FEE-- I MEAN FOR MATERIALS,' SURE, YOU'VE REUNITED ME WITH ALL MY OLD TOOLS, BUT A JOB LIKE THIS REQUIRES HIGHLY SPECIALIZED PARTS AND--
--URK-K-K!!
ALL RIGHT! YOU TELL ME WHERE TO FIND MONEY-- AND I'LL GET MONEY
OKAY, OKAY..!
AND SO, WITHIN TEN MINUTES, A BACK-ALLEY DICE GAME BECOMES A GREEN BLIZZARD OF VACUUMED CASH.
YAHH! A MONSTER!!
AND:
NOT BAD FOR A START, ROGUESY.
SKLURK SKLURK
BUT IF YOU WANT ME TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS, I'LL NEED SOME--
8

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DAILY PLANET

Issue Number MXLLLV

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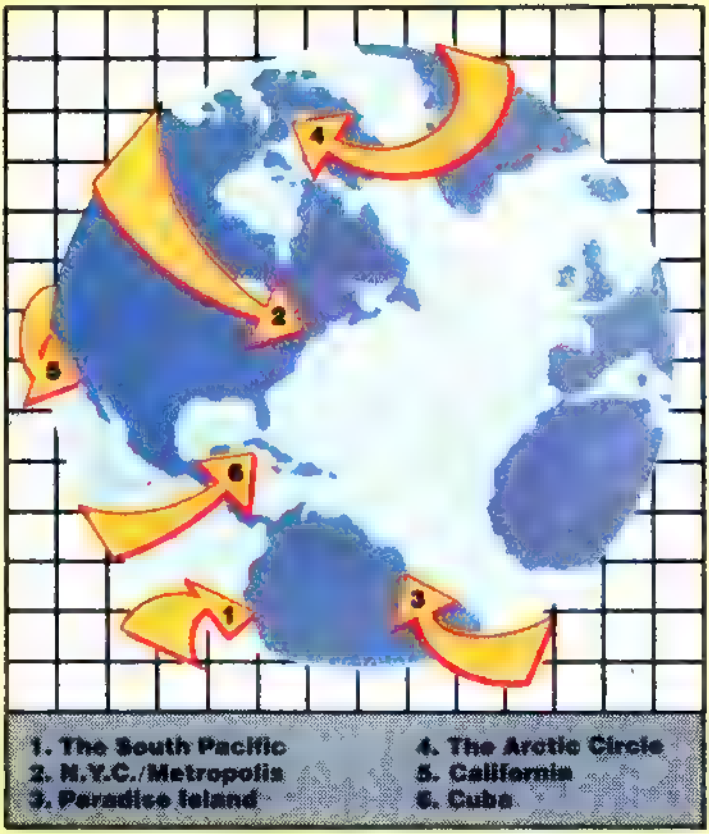
FIRST STRIKE™!



The South Pacific—U.S. troops trapped under enemy fire in the South Pacific were joined in their battle against the alien invasion force by Firestorm, Firehawk, Power Girl, and Starman. Warriors of the Khundish race have overrun a wide area of the South Pacific where numerous islands remain under their control despite heavy resistance from the military . . .

New York City—The Justice League International itself came under attack in their New York City embassy by a squadron of miniaturized alien killers which infiltrated their headquarters via the League's own teleporter device. There have been unconfirmed reports that the entire League has fallen to the invading hordes . . .

Paradise Island—The extraterrestrial threat that has struck Earth has also hit Paradise Island, home of the Amazons. The Princess Diana, also known as Wonder Woman, has allied herself with members of the Justice League International and Black Canary to combat the invaders sweeping across the ancient Amazon homeland . . .

Metropolis—While the heroes of Earth do battle with the alien invasion forces around the globe, hordes of Thanagarian soldiers have attacked Metropolis, giving rise to questions surrounding the whereabouts of the city's resident hero, the planet's mightiest protector, Superman. Reports have come out of Metropolis concerning the Man of Steel's mysterious absence, leaving the defense of that city against the invaders in the hands of the hero known only as Gangbuster . . .

The Arctic Circle—Scattered reports from the Arctic indicate that a member of The Doom Patrol has died in undersea combat against a detachment of the alien invasion force. According to reliable sources, the Patrol, the Sea Devils, and Aquaman and the Atlantean army engaged the forces of the aquatic Gil'Dishpan race beneath the Arctic icecap, leading to the death of the as-yet-unnamed team member . . .

California—Members of the alien invasion armada selected California's San Andreas Fault as a focal point for the attack against the American West Coast. A being identified as a Thanagarian hawk-warrior threatening the fault on the California earthquake line with an atomic bomb has come up against stiff resistance from the West Coast hero, Animal Man . . .

Cuba—The island republic of Cuba has become the latest area hit by the combined forces of the alien invasion. Reports out of Havana indicate that the American hero Flash has appeared on the scene to combat the invaders. There have also been unconfirmed rumors that the mysterious masked vigilantes known as The Batman and Manhunter have become involved, in separate instances, with the resistance effort . . .

For further news on *INVASION!* see the *DAILY PLANET—INVASION! EDITION*, available at comics shops in early November.

There will be *INVASION!—EXTRA* logos on many of your favorite DC titles. These stories continue the *INVASION!* excitement each week.

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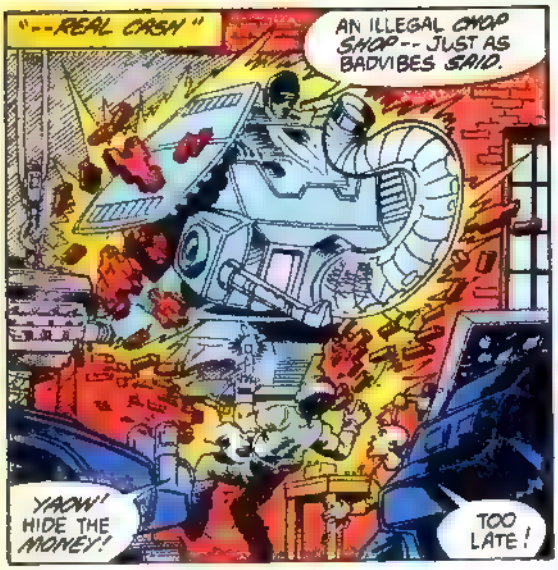
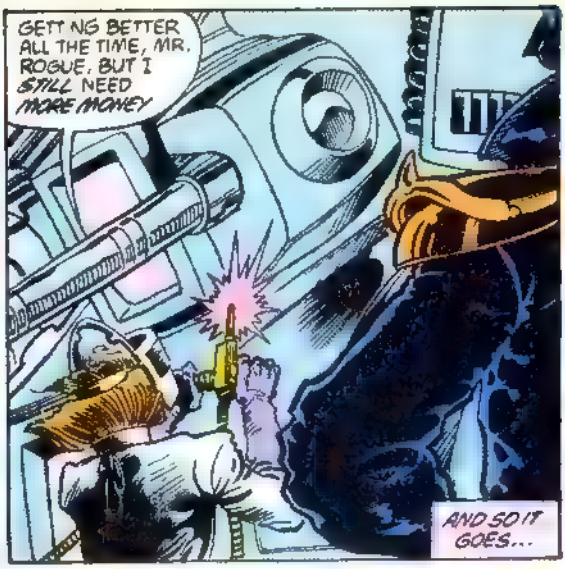
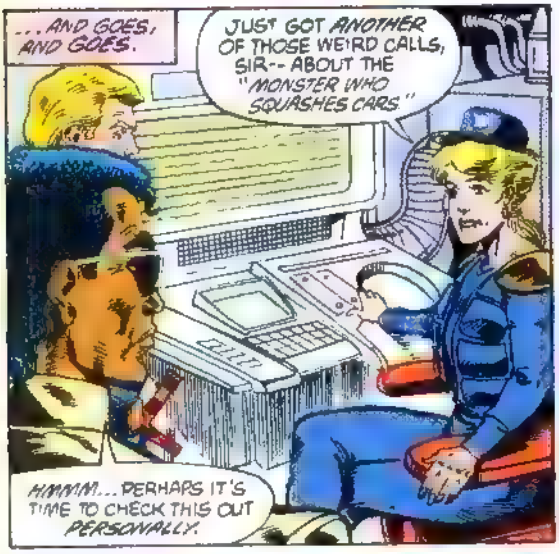
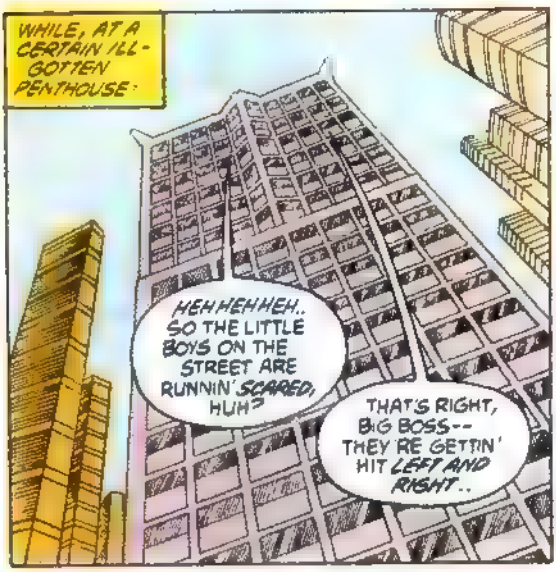

"--REAL CRASH"
AN ILLEGAL CHOP SHOP-- JUST AS BADVIBES SAID.
YAOW! HIDE THE MONEY!
TOO LATE!


GETT NG BETTER ALL THE TIME, MR. ROGUE. BUT I STILL NEED MORE MONEY
AND SO IT GOES...


...AND GOES, AND GOES.
JUST GOT ANOTHER OF THOSE WEIRD CALLS, SIR-- ABOUT THE "MONSTER WHO SQUASHES CARS."
HMMM... PERHAPS IT'S TIME TO CHECK THIS OUT PERSONALLY.

YOU GAME, LONG-ARM?
FOR A CHANCE TO INVESTIGATE A MONSTER AT THE SIDE OF THE MASTER?
ANY-TIME, VESS
WELL--JUST PRAY THIS IS A JOKE, O'MALLEY

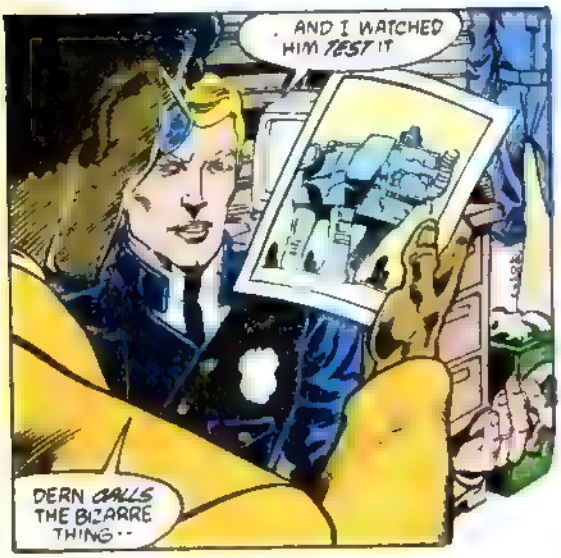

WHILE, AT A CERTAIN ILL-GOTTEN PENTHOUSE:
HEH HEH HEH.. SO THE LITTLE BOYS ON THE STREET ARE RUNNIN' SCARED, HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT, BIG BOSS-- THEY'RE GETTIN' HIT LEFT AND RIGHT..

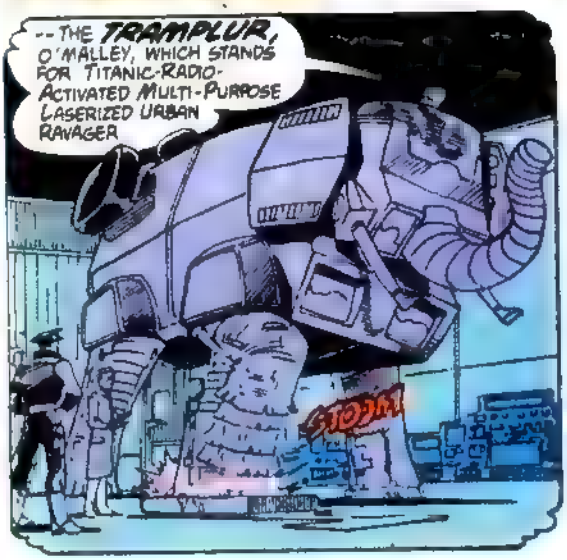
...BY SOME RIP-OFF ARTIST SUPPOSEDLY RIDIN' A MONSTER.
SKWEEE
SO WHAT, TURBO TU-TONE? LONG AS HE DON'T HORN IN ON MY ACTION, LET HIM FLEECE THE SMALL FRY
NO POLISH OFF MY NEST EGG.

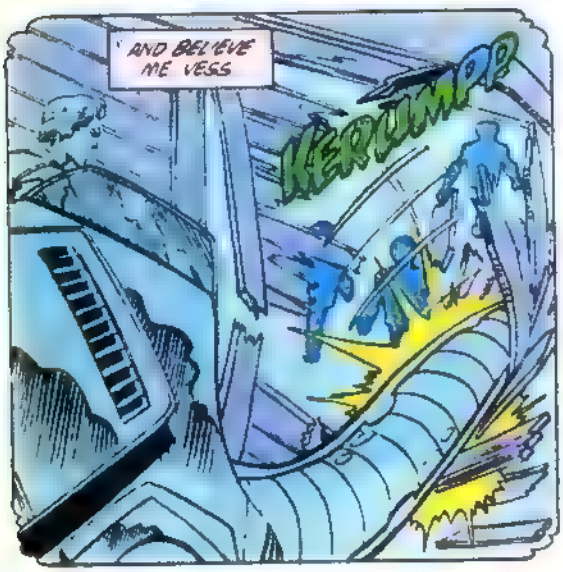
UH, SIR... IT'S NOT A JOKE... AND I THINK I KNOW WHAT DID THIS. WHEN YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL, AND I WENT OUT TO RECRUIT THE NEW COPS CORPS--*
*ISSUE #1. --ANDY
--YOU GAVE ME EIGHT NAMES, AND I LIKED WHAT I SAW IN SIX OF THEM--BOWSER, SUNDOWN, HIGHWAY, MACE, BARRICADE AND BULLSEYE..
AND THE OTHER TWO, LONGARM?
ONE I WASN'T SURE OF, SO I PLAYED IT CONSERVATIVE, TOLD HIM I CAME TO OBSERVE HIS TECHNIQUE, BUT I DIDN'T INVITE HIM TO JOIN COPS.
WHICH WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, O'MALLEY, SINCE I WANTED YOU TO ENLIST ONLY THE VERY FINEST OFFICERS--IN ABILITY AND CHARACTER NOW, THE OTHER ONE?
WELL, SIR... I WAS SURE OF WHAT I SAW IN HIM, DOWN IN NEW ORLEANS-- AND I DIDN'T LIKE IT...
THERE WAS A COLDNESS IN PAXTON DERN'S EYES-- A DOWNRIGHT MEANNESS -- AND HIS HANDSHAKE WAS TOO HARD, AS IF HE WERE TESTING ME, TRYING TO HURT MY HAND AND IMPRESS ME WITH HIS STRENGTH...
I KNOW THE KIND, LONGARM-- NOW GET TO THE POINT
WELL... TO THE WRONG KIND OF MAN, YESS, THE ABSOLUTE POWER AND AUTHORITY OF A POLICE BADGE CAN BE... A TEMPTATION..EVEN A LICENSE...
TO ABUSE THAT POWER, YOU MEAN? YOUR NEGATIVE FEELINGS ABOUT THE OFFICER WERE THAT STRONG?
AT THE [redacted], SIR, I FELT ONLY THE POTENTIAL FOR HIM GOING BAD..
10

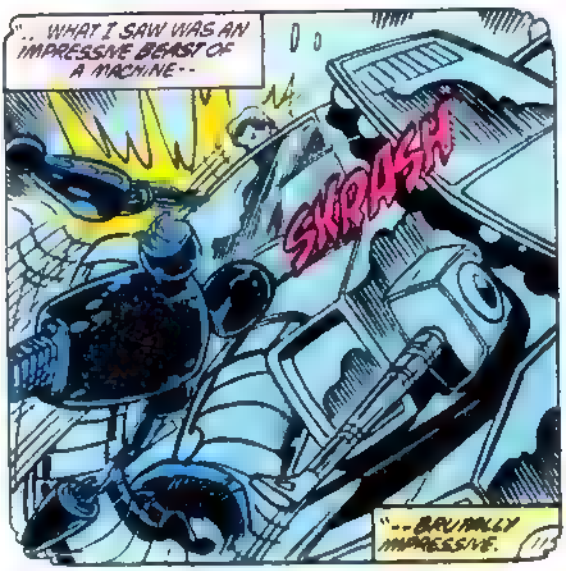
... BUT NOW I'M CERTAIN
PAXTON DERN IS A ROGUE COP... AND THIS IS HIS HANDIWORK
AND WHAT MAKES YOU SO CERTAIN, O'MALLEY?

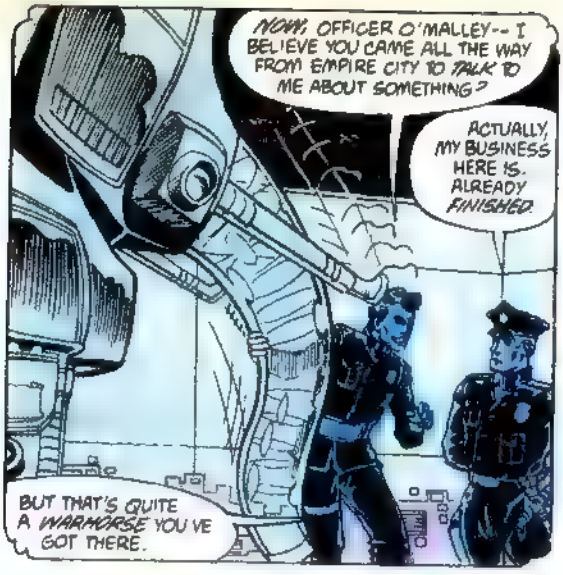
BACK AT THE PRECINCT:
THIS, SIR
PAXTON DERN DESIGNED IT HIMSELF...


. AND I WATCHED HIM TEST IT
DERN CALLS THE BIZARRE THING--


--THE TRAMPLUR, O'MALLEY, WHICH STANDS FOR TITANIC-RADIO-ACTIVATED MULTI-PURPOSE LASERIZED URBAN RAVAGER
STOMM


' AND BELIEVE ME YESS
KERUMPF


'.. WHAT I SAW WAS AN IMPRESSIVE BEAST OF A MACHINE--
SKRASH
'--BRUTALLY IMPRESSIVE.


NOW, OFFICER O'MALLEY-- I BELIEVE YOU CAME ALL THE WAY FROM EMPIRE CITY TO TALK TO ME ABOUT SOMETHING?
ACTUALLY, MY BUSINESS HERE IS ALREADY FINISHED.
BUT THAT'S QUITE A WARHORSE YOU'VE GOT THERE.

STILL NEEDS A LOT OF IMPROVEMENT, O'MALLEY-- WHICH IT'LL PROBABLY NEVER GET.
OH?
WORD'S ALREADY OUT THAT MY "SUPERIORS" WILL REJECT THE TRAMPLUR-- AS "TOO BRUTAL FOR STREET USE"
I SEE.

YOU KNOW THE KIND-- ALWAYS PLAYING STRICTLY BY THE BOOK-- EVEN WHEN THE CREEPS ON THE STREET ARE KILLING US.
YES.. I DO KNOW THE KIND.

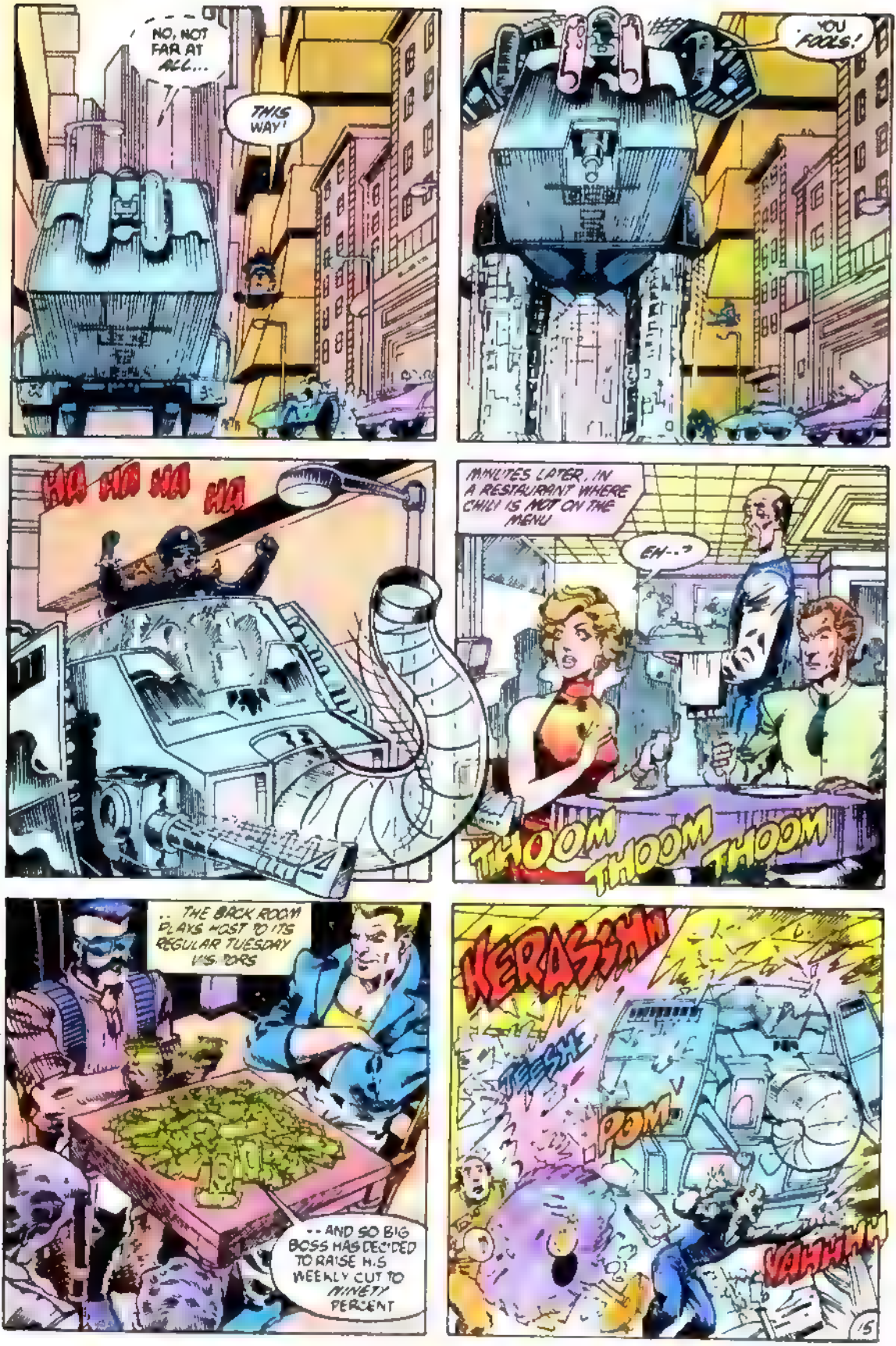
I TELL YOU, O'MALLEY I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF IT I CAN TAKE HERE--
--SO MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN SOMEDAY, UP IN EMPIRE CITY.
"AND THAT'S WHEN I LEFT, SIR

BUT HIS PARTING SHOT-- THOSE WERE THE EXACT WORDS?
YES, SIR AT THE TIME, EVEN THOUGH I KNEW HE WOULDN'T FIT YOUR VISION OF COPS, I FIGURED HE WAS JUST BLOWING OFF STEAM...
... BUT NOW, IN VIEW OF THE EVIDENCE..

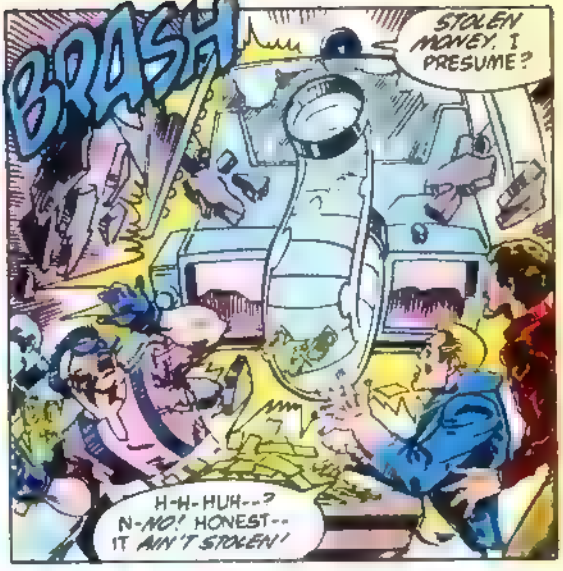
I CONCUR, O'MALLEY
SOMETHING VERY BIG AND "TOO BRUTAL FOR THE STREETS OF NEW ORLEANS" IS NOW LOOSE IN EMPIRE CITY.. IN OUR STREETS..
...AND WE'VE GOT TO STOP IT... WITHOUT LOSING EQUILIBRIUM. WITHOUT TAKING A FALL.

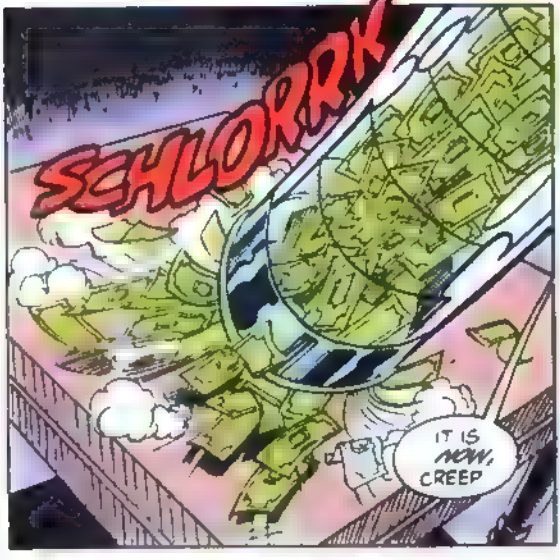
-- JEST A TAD MILD FOR CHILI, MA'AM
MILD--? THE COOK PUT IN SO MUCH HOT PEPPER TODAY, HE'S STILL CRYING!
SUN-UP DINER
THEN IT'S CLEAR AS A CLOUDBURST, MA'AM, THAT NEITHER YOU NOR YORE COOK HAILS FROM DOWN TEXAS-WAY
SHOOT, CHILI LIKE THIS, WE USE AS PABULUM FOR NEWBORN BA--
WHA-WHA-WHAT--?!
THOOM!
T-T-TARNATION!
SPLUT
GOL-DURN--! LOOKS LIKE EMPIRE CITY'S FINALLY OUTDONE TEXAS IN ONE WAY!
THOOM THOOM THOOM
BIGGEST DANG TRAFFIC OFFENDER I EVER DONE SAW!
THIS'S SUNDOWN AT THE SUN-UP DINER-- CALLIN ANY COP IN THE VICINITY!
GOT ME A PER-PETRATOR IN ONE WILD AN WOOLY RIG--
--PUNCHIN' SOME MIGHTY BIG HOLES IN THIS HERE STREET!
WHAT'S THE DEAL, SUNDOWN? YOU'VE FINALLY GONE LOCO, RIGHT?
YOU KNOW WE CORS DON'T WASTE OUR TIME WITH POTHOLES!
MEBBE NOT, HIGHWAY...
3

...BUT THESE HERE 'UNS ARE DADBLUMMED CRATERS! NOW ZIP ON OVER AN' GIMME SOME BACKUP!
I FEEL LIKE A DADBLASTED TEENY SKEETER TRYIN TO NIP AT . WELL, AT AN ELEPHANT!
THOOM THOOM
POTHOLES AND AN "ELEPHANT"?
WHAT DOES HE MEAN, POTHOLES AND AN--
--ELEPHANT?!
TOLD YUH, PARDNER! NOW HELP ME HERD IM ON OVER TO THE CURB!
HE'S GOT LESS N A BLOCK LEAD NOW, AN' WE'RE GAININ'! NO WAY HE CAN--
WHAT THE--?! DISAPPEARED?! BUT WHERE IN BLAZES DO YOU HIDE AN ELEPHANT?!
BEATS ME, PARDNER BUT THE BLAMED CRATER-TRAIL JEST PLUMB STOPS! THINK THE THING KIN FLY--?
ONLY IF IT'S PINK OR NAMED "DUMBO"
NOW, COME ON--A LUMBERING THING LIKE THAT, IT CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR
4


NO, NOT FAR AT ALL...
THIS WAY!
YOU FOOLS!
HA HA HA HA
MINUTES LATER, IN A RESTAURANT WHERE CHILI IS NOT ON THE MENU
EH--?
THOOM THOOM THOOM
.. THE BACK ROOM PLAYS HOST TO ITS REGULAR TUESDAY VIS. PORS
-- AND SO BIG BOSS HAS DECIDED TO RAISE H.S WEEKLY CUT TO NINETY PERCENT
KERASHH
TEESHE
POM
VAHHHH
15

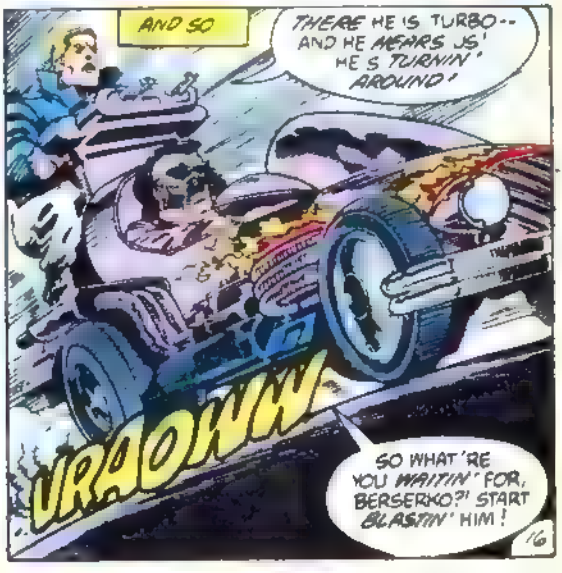
WHAT'S WITH THE MOUSE--?
SOUNDS LIKE LOUIE'S BUSTIN' EVERY PLATE IN THE JOINT OUT THERE!
DON'T HE KNOW THIS IS A BUSINESS MEE-


BRASH
STOLEN MONEY, I PRESUME?
H-H-HUH--? N-NO! HONEST-- IT AIN'T STOLEN!


SCHLORRK
IT IS NOW, CREEP

HA HA HA
THOOM THOOM THOOM

PICKED CLEAN, BERSERKO! BUT WE CAN'T LET THAT FREAK GET AWAY WITH STEALIN' OUR STOLEN MONEY!
SOMETHIN' TELLS ME YOU'RE RIGHT, TURBO TU-TONE, CUZ I DON'T THINK BIG BOSS WOULD LIKE THAT AT ALL.


AND SO
THERE HE IS TURBO-- AND HE HEARS US! HE'S TURNIN' AROUND!
VROOWW
SO WHAT'RE YOU WAITIN' FOR, BERSERKO?! START BLASTIN' HIM!

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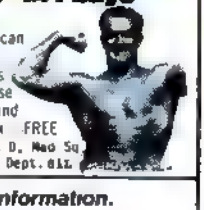

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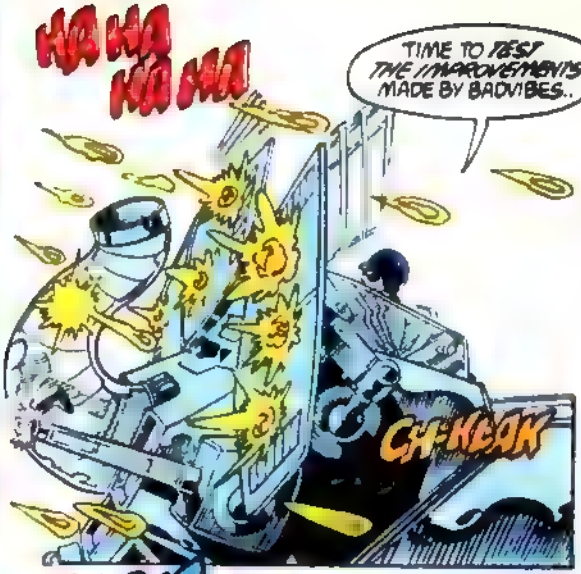
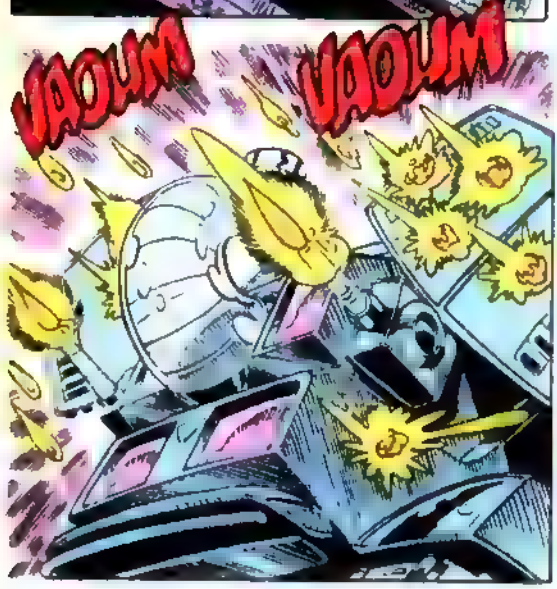
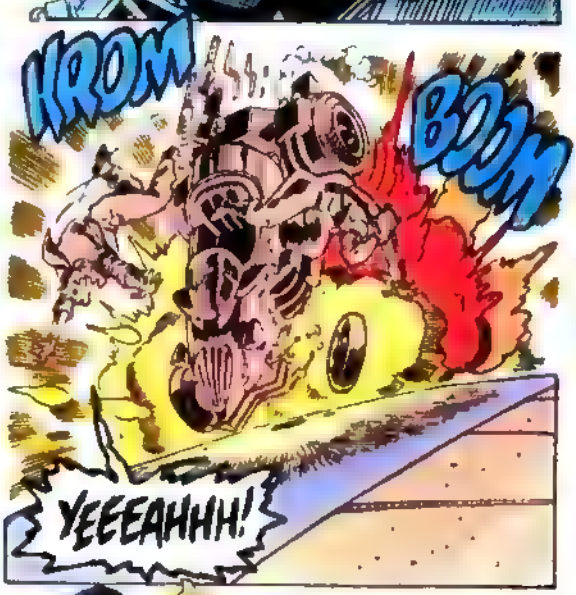
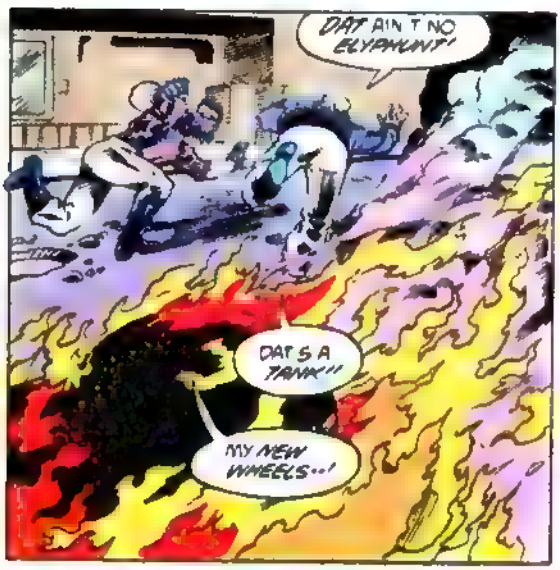
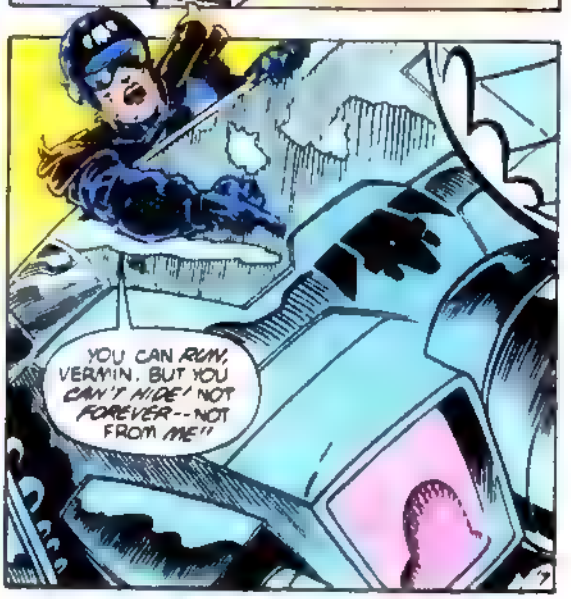
CHOOM CHOOM
BUDOOM

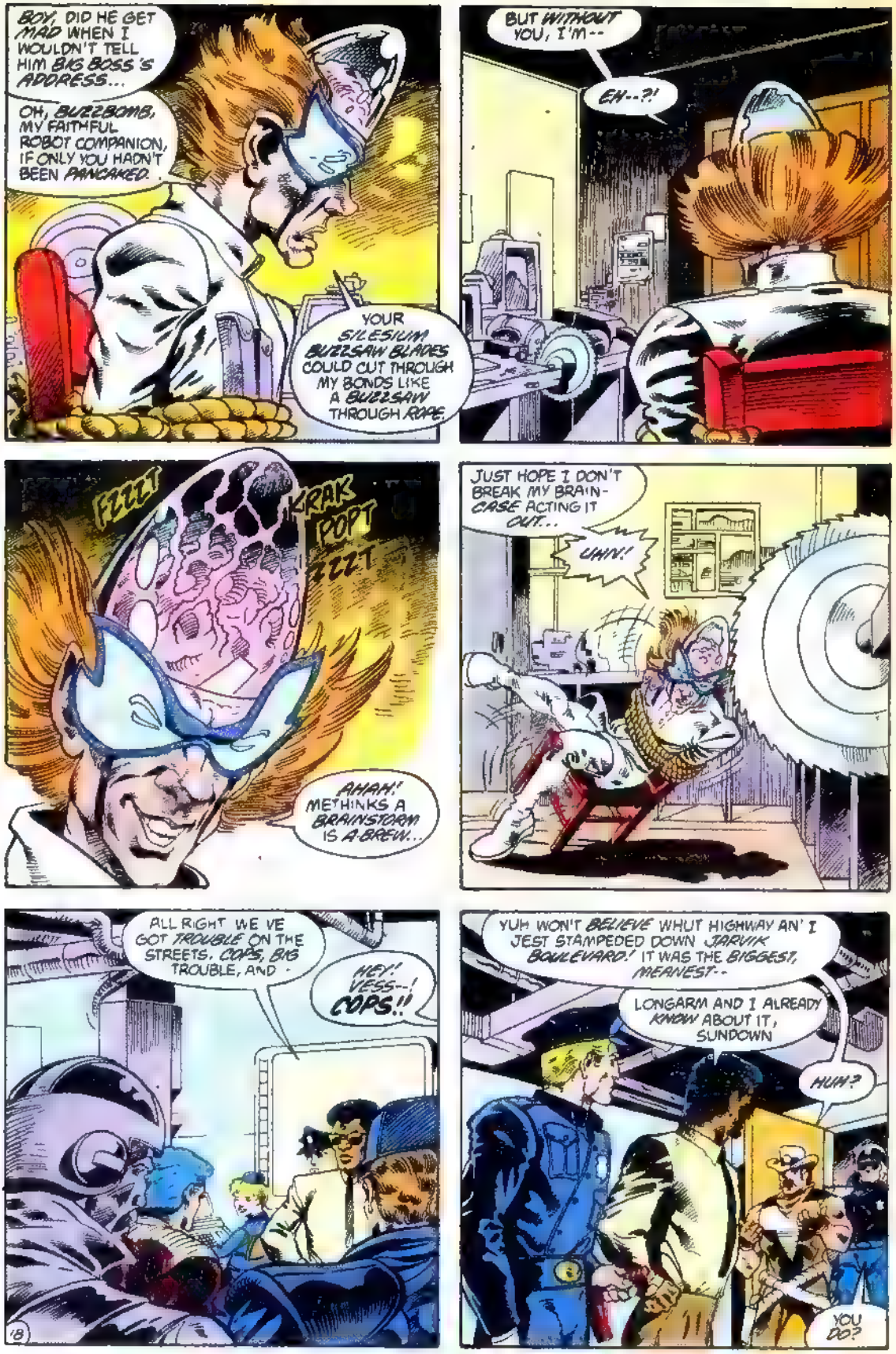

HA HA HA HA
TIME TO TEST THE IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY BADVIBES..
CH-KCAK


VAOUM
VAOUM


KROM
BDUM
YEEEAHHH!


DAT AIN T NO ELYPHUNT!
DAT S A TANK!!
MY NEW WHEELS..!


YOU CAN RUN, VERMIN. BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE! NOT FOREVER--NOT FROM ME!!


BOY, DID HE GET MAD WHEN I WOULDN'T TELL HIM BIG BOSS'S ADDRESS...
OH, BUZZBOMB, MY FAITHFUL ROBOT COMPANION, IF ONLY YOU HADN'T BEEN PANCAKED.
YOUR SILESIUM BUZZSAW BLADES COULD CUT THROUGH MY BONDS LIKE A BUZZSAW THROUGH ROPE.
BUT WITHOUT YOU, I'M--
EH--?!
FIZZT
KRAK
POPT
ZZZT
AHAH! METHINKS A BRAINSTORM IS A-BREW..
JUST HOPE I DON'T BREAK MY BRAIN-CASE ACTING IT OUT..
UHH!
ALL RIGHT WE VE GOT TROUBLE ON THE STREETS, COPS, BIG TROUBLE, AND -
HEY! VESS--! COPS!!
YUH WON'T BELIEVE WHUT HIGHWAY AN' I JEST STAMPEDED DOWN JARVIK BOULEVARD! IT WAS THE BIGGEST, MEANEST--
LONGARM AND I ALREADY KNOW ABOUT IT, SUNDOWN
HUH?
YOU DO?
18

MAINFRAME, PUNCH UP THAT COMPUTER-GRAPHIC YOU AND LONGARM WORKED OUT
YES, SIR
TEK
HUH?! THEY DO KNOW WHUT WE STAMPEDED!
EXCELLENT, MAINFRAME.
TRAMPLUR
TRAMPLUR
THANK YOU, AGENT VESS.
THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE THINGS!
AYEP-- 'CEPT NOW IT'S MEANER LOOKIN' --MORE STREAMLINED..
THOSE "IMPROVEMENTS" HE SAID THE "TRAMPLUR" NEEDED..
YES--IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S MADE THEM
WHO MADE THEM? WHO'S BEHIND THIS "TRAMPLUR" THING?
YEAH--WHOEVER THE DRIVER IS, I WANT TO LAY MY EYES ON HIM!
MAINFRAME, CALL UP THAT PHOTO I ACCESSED FROM THE NATIONWIDE PERSONNEL DATA-FILE.
"PERSONNEL"..?
19

HERE IT IS, SIR-- OFFICER PAXTON DERN OF THE NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT
A COP--?!
THAT'S RIGHT-- A DIRTY COP.
AND WE'RE GOING TO--
EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT I HAVE AN INCOMING 911 CALL ON MY HEADSET, POSSIBLY RELATED-- DISTURBANCE AT LOUIE'S RESTAURANT
MEANWHILE.
:NNNGHHH!
FLEKT
BZZZZZZZZ
ZZEPT
YES! MY BRAIN-STORM WORKED!
NOW TO ESCAPE THE HUMILIATION OF HAVING TO ESCAPE MY OWN TRASHED LAB-- BEFORE THAT WHACKO KAMIKAZE COP GETS BACK!
20

JUST FOLK

MISTER MIRACLE

SURVIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

WRITTEN BY J.M. DeMATTEIS -
ART BY IAN GIBSON

A NEW ONGOING SERIES IN THE TRADITION OF JUSTICE LEAGUE
THE FUN STARTS IN NOVEMBER

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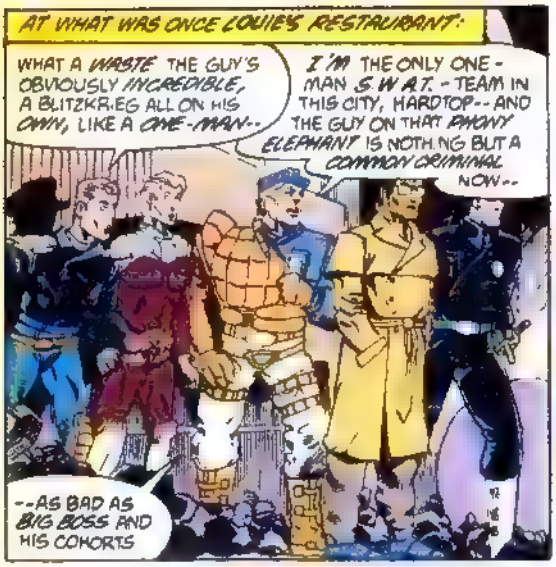
AT WHAT WAS ONCE LOUIE'S RESTAURANT:
WHAT A WASTE THE GUY'S OBVIOUSLY INCREDIBLE, A BLITZKRIEG ALL ON HIS OWN, LIKE A ONE-MAN--
I'M THE ONLY ONE-MAN S.W.A.T.-TEAM IN THIS CITY, HARDTOP-- AND THE GUY ON THAT PHONY ELEPHANT IS NOTHING BUT A COMMON CRIMINAL NOW--
--AS BAD AS BIG BOSS AND HIS COHORTS

WORSE, SGT MACE
HE'S A REJECTION OF EVERYTHING WE STAND FOR, AND A DISGRACE TO EVERY DECENT COP EVERYWHERE
YOU MIGHT EVEN SAY HE'S A COP-KILLER, HAVING DESTROYED THE LAWMAN HE ONCE WAS

ALL RIGHT, COPS, HIT THE STREETS AND START HUNTING--
--AND DON'T REPORT BACK TO THE PRECINCT UNTIL YOU TRACK HIM DOWN!

--LET HIM TAKE MY MONEY, TURBO TU-TONE?! MINE?! THAT DOES IT! SOME CREEP RIPPIN OFF ALL THE OTHER CROOKS IN TOWN I DON'T MIND.. BUT NOW, WHEN IT'S MY DOUGH--
BIG BOSS--!

I ESCAPED, BIG BOSS-- BUT HE'LL BE AFTER ME! AFTER ALL OF US!
BADVIBES--? WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE? WHAT'RE YOU BABBLIN' ABOUT?
I'M BABBLING ABOUT A CRAZY COP ON A ROBOT ELEPHANT, THAT'S WHAT!

YOU MEAN THIS NEW RIP-OFF ARTIST.. S A COP?!
YES! AND HE MADE ME IMPROVE HIS ELEPHANT-- SO HE CAN GO ON A RAMPAGE AND STOMP OUT "ALL THE VERMIN" IN THE CITY!
UHRRR...

SO HE'S AFTER US, IS HE? WHICH MEANS HE MAY BE A ROGUE COP, BUT HE AIN'T A CROOKED COP.
HE AIN'T REALLY A THIEF AN' A KIDNAPPER...
...HE JUST NEEDED MONEY--AND BADVIBE'S EXPERTISE--TO PERFECT HIS MONSTER ELEPHANT.
SO HE'S REALLY JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER COPS --HE WANTS TO BUST US'
BUT UNLIKE THE OTHER COPS, HE'S TAKIN' THE LAW INTO HIS OWN HANDS, WHICH MAKES HIM MORE DANGEROUS-- BUT ILLEGAL
SO WHAT CAN WE DO, BOSS?
DO? IT'S SIMPLE, YOU IDIOTS
WE PRETEND TO PAY OUR TAXES, DON'T WE?
UH, RIGHT, BOSS--OUR BOOKS ARE SCRUPULOUS ABOUT PRETENDIN'
THEN WE DO WHAT ANY OTHER CITIZENS WOULD DO...
WE GET THE LAW.. TO PROTECT US'
HEH HEH HEH..
SO THE LITTLE CREEP FINALLY NOTICED THE BUZZSAW'
SO THE HUNT AT LAST BEGINS!
AND LET IT LEAD..WHEREVER 'T MAY'
CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE, IN-- THE TRAMPLIN' RAMPANT!
22

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Dear Mr. Helfer:

I have no idea why Pat Broderick was pulled off COPS, but I'm sure there was a good reason. No problem, though, really, because Bart Sears did an admirable job on his debut issue of the series (#3). He had his own personal renditions of the characters that made them his own without throwing away all the efforts that Pat put into this book in the first couple of issues. I like Bart's work. I do not believe I have ever heard of him before. Perhaps a short biography can be put together? Hm?

Doug is doing an excellent job with his stories, but I think he spends too much time on the criminals. I feel I have a better rapport with them than I do with the people whose name graces the covers—namely, the COPS. I suppose this will be rectified in the future, but I, for one, think that we need to get a better grasp on the personalities of the good guys, besides Long-Arm and, maybe, Hardtop.

The futuristic bent of the series is quite interesting. It seems that no matter how far we advance technologically, we can still never get rid of the really terrible blight that infests urban areas. The rich continue to get richer. The powerful get stronger. And the little guy is still lost in the shuffle. For all our advances, what have we really learned about life?

COPS has impressed me up to this point; I hope the promise shown will continue. It's all up to you.

Thanks for your time and see ya in thirty.

Roger D. Case
1199 Waterfront Drive #202
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

You can tell a lot about a man by his enemies, someone once said. I think, however, that COPS has a more positive message: it points out just what the little guy, i.e., Officer O'Malley, can do against almost insurmountable odds, i.e., The Big Boss, both as an individual and as part of a team. To paraphrase you, Roger, "It's all up to us."

As you can see, Pat Broderick is back. Bart Sears was just helping Pat catch up on other commitments. Regular artists are rarely "pulled off" books, unless they can't make the schedule. In most cases, the artist simply wants to move on.

As for Bart Sears, if you thought he was good on COPS, you ain't seen nothin' yet. Check out his work on the second and third issues of DC's 3-issue mini-series crossover INVASION! This guy is definitely destined for distinction.

• • • • •

To everyone at COPS"

I picked up a COPS preview flyer one day, and upon reading it was interested. Issue #1 came out and a friend recommended it ... a reliable friend. I tried it out. Took my chances on #1. $1.50 is kinda cheap for a comic of this size and quality.

Did I say quality? Yes! The story—the artwork—the price! Yes, I said quality! The same kinda quality that followed in issues #2 and #3 (and I hope forevermore). Keep it up and you'll have one of the hottest comics of '88. I can't wait for issue #4.

Mark Hong
156 Mockingbird Lane
Wheeling, IL 60090

P.S. Never let Bart Sears go. He's one of the few artists whose drawings I can really relate to. But if he's too busy over at Quality, let's have Broderick and Marcos back. No one can do COPS like they do.

Broderick and Marcos are indeed back. As I mentioned before, Bart's doing INVASION! for us. After that he'll be the regular artist on the new JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE series, which should be starting early in '89. Look for it.

• • • • •

Dear Officers:

Because I started reading COPS with issue #2, I really had no idea what to expect. Of course, when you jammed all the characters together, it started to get really confusing, and the story didn't help me identify anybody, either (until I got to the letters page, oops!).

Anyway, I really got into the story and enjoyed watching Buttons McBoom-Boom get what was coming to him. (Anybody that despicable shouldn't be allowed to grace these pages!) This second issue was incredible and signifies what levels of quality DC is able to reach. The story had all the elements of a good comic: human emotion, compassion, understanding, vengeance, and an ending that justifies the means.

I wouldn't be writing this letter, though, if I didn't have any hang-ups! Issue #3 was really bad. Why? Must you ask? 1) Berserko, who was shown to have a lot of criminal potential, was shown as an incompetent flunky who wouldn't even be capable of signing the Big Boss up for a diet center program. (He needs it, too. By the way, he reminds me of another criminal mastermind. Hmm. I can't put my finger on it. Perhaps if I checked around...) I was really getting sick of his insipid dialogue by page 9. 2) The Vibe Piper? Come on, guys. 3) The Cops, our heroes and *main characters*, showed up for about one third of the story. 4) I understand that these are the case files of the Cops, but I get the impression that it was a fill-in issue because the rats were dead in one issue, and had no big effect on the Cops. 5) Couldn't you dig up another enemy for them to fight? They are the law-and-order of Empire City! (All of Empire City!) The Big Boss hasn't really impressed me, nor is he very successful in his vengeance against the Cops. I am quickly losing my patience with the despicable Fat Man, who has not shown us why he hates the police so much and has dedicated so much of his valuable time to defeating them.

I also noticed that by the second issue of COPS, they were already toys. It is my experience that comic books that have a toy line behind them are hardly, if ever, successful. I hope you prove me wrong. Because, despite my complaints, I would really like to see this book go to the impressive heights it can, citing issue #2 as my example.

Good luck,
Eradicator
San Jose, CA

Sorry you couldn't tell the characters apart, Rad. Telling the good guys from the bad isn't easy these days, even on the letters page.

Thanks for that formula for a good comic, and I always thought it was angst, a fight, secret identity crisis, another fight with banter, a relationship problem, and a fight with good triumphing over evil.

To handle your "hang-ups" one-by-one:

1) Berserko is insipid, but that doesn't in any way diminish his criminal potential any more than Big Boss's bulk prevents his (and how many other big, fat crime overlords can there be?);

2) You would've preferred our alternative title, The Vibes of March? Neither would I;

3) The Cops are the title characters, along the lines of the musical "Gypsy," which spotlighted for the most part her

nother, Rose. Big Boss and his crew are also main characters—let them entertain you;

4) Yes, they're all from the COPS files, but we never said every file had monumental impact. Migosh, we don't even say "The story you're about to read is true; only the names have been changed to protect their sanity";

5) How about the TRAMPLUR and Rogue Cop storyline, which forced the Cops to protect Big Boss? As to why B.B. hates the Cops, they foil his plans, it's a matter of overblown pride, and, hey, he's the villain; let's hope he won't be successful in his vengeance—in this book, the good guys do win.

The COPS characters were already toys before issue #1, and production was already under way on the COPS TV show, which should be appearing "in your area" as you read this. We hope to prove you wrong, though, for as editor Andy Helfer said the other day, "As toy tie-ins go, I think this one is pretty good." A knack for understatement, that fellow.

Our last letter is either a joke or frighteningly prophetic. It certainly seems sincere.

Dear Mr. Writer:

Your comic called COPS is the greatest comic I have ever read.

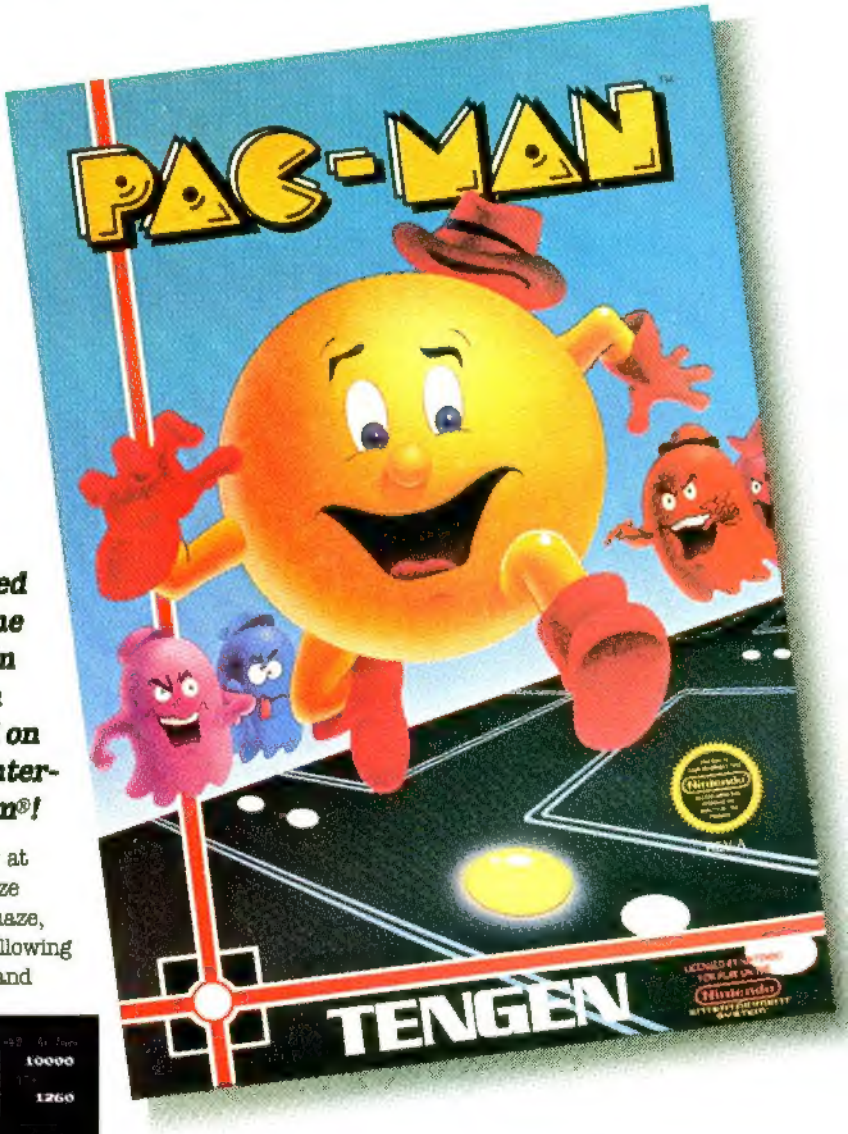
The action is great. The futuristic city is greater. All of the good guys are great. I don't know about any other kids in my state, but I think you should talk to Hasbro and see if they could make COPS action figures. See if they could make Big Boss and his gang. See if they could make vehicles. But I don't know what you could do.

Your fan,
Shelby Smothermon
6104 NW 54
Oklahoma City, OK 73122

So, Shelby. What do you say about the World Series? The Mets? How about the Presidential Election? A third party candidate? Hmm. Will my copies of PREZ ever be worth anything? That's what I thought.

NEXT ISSUE: Thoom! Thoom! Thoom! It's so big. (How big is it?) It's sooo big that it calls Big Boss "slim." Rogue Cop and TRAMPLUR go after Big Boss and his gang. But where can they hide? Would you believe the 647 Precinct itself?
PAT BRODERICK
PABLO MARCOS

Nintendo® gamers, the biggest hit of the *decade* is back — just for you!



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PAC-MAN is ready at your command to blaze around the baffling maze, gobbling up dots, swallowing the occasional fruits and racking up the points.

Guide PAC-MAN around the maze to eat all the dots without getting eaten by the hungry ghosts.

Blinky, Pinky, Inky and *Clyde*, the not-so-friendly ghosts, are dying to do some gobbling, too. Except their favorite food is PAC-MAN!

His only defense is to eat the energizers, special pellets which empower PAC-MAN to gobble the ghosts — but only for a short while! With each level, the energizers' effectiveness decreases. As you clear each maze the ghosts move faster.

Remember, it's a jungle out there. So gobble — or get gobbled!

TENGEN

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